

PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

FOR THE
BOROUGH OF YEOVIL.

1902.

DR. GARLAND,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

YEOVIL:
W. BEALE COLLINS, PRINTER AND STATIONER,
PRINCES STREET.



PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT.

TO THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF YEOVIL.

January, 1903.

GENTLEMEN,

Herewith is my Report of the Health and Sanitary Condition of your Borough for the Year ending December 31st, 1902.

DR. MCCALLIN will report on the matters he has dealt with, as Deputy Medical Officer of Health, since 10th November.

Area, 700 Acres. Population, 9,838, census of 1901. Inhabited Houses, 2,120. Geology, Upper and Middle Lias, Yeovil Sands. Industries, Glove-making, also Foundries, Tallow-melting, Butter-making, and Brewing.

General Vital Statistics.

During the year 251 Births were registered within the Borough—Males 126, Females 125, a decrease of 27 as compared with 1901 ; the birth-rate per 1,000 being 25·51.

There were 15 illegitimate births in 1902, as compared with 16 in 1901.

The total number of Deaths registered in the Borough in 1902 amounted to 135, as in 1901, Males 62, and Females 73. But 15 of these were non-residents in Yeovil, thus making the net number of deaths 120, the death-rate being 12·19 per 1,000.

Therefore, compared with the previous year, while the death-rate is stationary, the birth-rate has decreased.

The number of children who died under 1 year amounted to 30, compared with 25 in 1901, showing a death-rate of 109·52 children under 1 year, per 1,000 births. But the causes of the deaths under 1 year are not those that might be attributed to defective drainage or polluted water.

There were no deaths from scarlet fever, diphtheria, or typhoid fever ; but measles and whooping cough caused four deaths each.

The following Table shows the causes of all the deaths that occurred in the district during 1902, arranged according to age-periods ; and also, in the last column, the numbers due to the same causes in the year 1901.

TABLE 1.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1902.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO DISTRICT (AT ALL AGES). DURING YEAR 1901.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Measles	4	3	1					1
Scarlet Fever ..								1
Whooping-cough	4	1	3					2
Diphtheria & membranous croup ..								2
Enteritis	1			1				
Erysipelas ..								1
Other septic diseases	1					1		
Phthisis	7				4	3		10
Other tubercular diseases	2		2					4
Cancer, malignant disease	2					2		7
Bronchitis	18	10	2				6	6
Pneumonia	11	2	1		1	5	2	6
Pleurisy								1
Alcoholism Cirrhosis of liver }	2					2		3
Venereal diseases								1
Premature birth ..	5	5						5
Heart diseases ..	18					10	8	14
Accidents	2			1		1		2
Suicides	2				2			
All other causes ..	56	9	1		3	15	28	69
All causes ..	135	30	10	2	10	39	44	135

The next Table shows the cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year, set forth according to causes and age-periods. One of them was, in my opinion, small-pox.

TABLE 2.
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1902.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						
	At all Ages.	AT AGES—YEARS.					
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.
Small-pox	1					1	
Erysipelas	9				1	6	2
Scarlet fever	2			1	1		
Totals	12			1	2	7	2

Dairies and Milkshops.

These have been regularly inspected.

Tallow Factory.

This has been visited as usual during the year. The effluvia occasionally causes some nuisance.

Board Schools.

These are kept clean and in very good order.

Workshops, Workplaces, and Bakehouses.

The sanitary state of these is fairly satisfactory.

The Factory & Workshop Act, 1901, requires that registers of Workshops and Out-workers be kept, a duty which necessarily entails considerable clerical work, and requires clerical assistance if it is to be carried out by the Medical Officer of Health.

By the same Act it is provided that the Council will be called upon to decide, after January, 1904, whether any underground Bakehouses existing in the district may be continued.

Scavenging.

I have again to draw your attention to the slovenly use of vessels, of all kinds and descriptions, by householders for the deposit of refuse outside their residences for collection.

Sanitary Inspection.

The duties of the Sanitary Inspector have been transferred to the Surveyor, and I hope the new arrangement will work satisfactorily.

The following is the report of Sanitary Work completed during the year 1902.

Assistant Inspector's Report of the Sanitary Work completed in the Year 1902.

	No. of Complaints received during the Year.. ..	35
	No. of Houses, Premises, &c., inspected	750
	No. of re-inspections of Houses, Premises, &c.	40
Results of Inspection.	Orders issued for Sanitary Amendments of Houses and Premises.. .. .	116
	Houses, Premises, &c., Cleansed, Repaired, Whitewashed, &c.	22
	Houses Disinfected after illness of an Infectious Character	7
House Drains.	Repaired, Cleansed, Trapped, &c.	98
	Ventilated	3
Privies and Waterclosets.	Repaired, &c.	53
	Supplied wth Water	3
	New provided	2
Cisterns.	Cisterns Cleansed, Repaired and Covered	5
MISCELLANEOUS.	Removal of Accumulations of Dung, Stagnant Water, Animal and other Refuse	Six orders served.
	Animals removed, being improperly kept	—
	Bakehouses.. ..	} Regularly .. Inspected ..
	Licensed Cowsheds	
	Licensed Slaughter-houses	
	Legal Proceedings: <i>i.e.</i> , Summonses	None.

The Isolation Hospital.

The alterations and additions to this Hospital have still to be made in order to put it in a satisfactory state.

Small-pox Precautions.

I am glad to state that the Council contemplate the erection of a Small-pox Hospital, outside the Borough, which I trust will be accomplished and thus avoid any possibility of panic of any kind.

E. C. GARLAND,

Medical Officer of Health (Urban), Yeovil.

MUNICIPAL OFFICES, YEOVIL,

JANUARY, 1903.

GENTLEMEN,

In this Report I shall confine myself chiefly to the subjects specially treated during the part of the year I was Deputy Medical Officer of Health—since 10th November.

Mortuary and Post-Mortem Room.

I have already reported with regard to the conversion of the building in the Cemetery into a Mortuary and Post-Mortem Room. The necessary structural alterations I recommended, with the assistance of Mr. Oddy, you have approved of, and their execution awaits the sanction of the Burial Board.

Slaughter Houses.

Several of the Slaughter Houses in the Borough need improvements in order to put them into a satisfactory state.

Their drainage, ventilation, communication with structures in which animals are constantly kept, cleansing, and other conditions require to be gone into in detail.

A full report, based on a joint inspection by Mr. Oddy and myself, will be put before the Committee in due course.

Small-pox.

As anticipated, Small-pox has again broken out in different parts of England.

Steps are being taken to secure the isolation of patients suffering from this disease, in order to stamp it out as soon as possible should it unfortunately appear in this Borough.

Of course, provision for isolation is not intended, in the least degree, to supersede the protection afforded by Vaccination and Re-Vaccination.

It is an error to suppose that isolation is enough. While it is very clear that this precaution is of the greatest importance in checking the spread of the disease, it must not be forgotten that the necessity for it, with all the consequent risks and damaging effects on the district, could be avoided, or made very improbable, through Vaccination and Re-Vaccination.

It is proposed to make "Chicken-pox" a notifiable disease, while Small-pox is prevalent, for the purpose of bringing all patients in the district suffering from it under the notice of their medical attendants or the Medical Officer of Health. It is well known that mild or modified Small-pox can closely resemble Chicken-pox.

Ambulance.

The need of an Ambulance for the conveyance of patients suffering from infectious diseases has been pointed out.

With regard to such a vehicle it is necessary to bear in mind that its structure and fittings should be suitable, not only for the comfort of the patients but also for the process of thorough disinfection.

Disinfector.

This structure, which has been removed from the Cemetery Buildings, has been repaired and is being placed for use in the Town Yard.

Common Lodging-Houses.

Enquiries are being made to make the Register of Common Lodging-Houses as complete as possible. It is necessary that it should include all houses capable of being regarded as Common Lodging-Houses, and thus bring them under the direct supervision of the Public Health Department.

The importance of this precaution and the need of strict observance of the provisions made by Statutes and Bye-Laws, with regard to Common Lodging-Houses, are shown by the fact that in many of the places where Small-pox now exists it has been introduced and spread through such houses.

Public Libraries.

As the Public Libraries' Acts have recently been adopted, I may point out that Public Libraries need public health precautions.

The sanitary officers should be able to act promptly with regard to library books, or otherwise, in order to remove the risk of spreading infectious diseases by such means.

Factories and Workshops.

As Dr. GARLAND has pointed out new duties have been imposed on the Council by the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.

During my term of office nothing has occurred with regard to them requiring special notice.

I have been given every facility to examine and understand the processes connected with the staple industry of Yeovil. In what may be described as the microbial treatment of Skins, it is probable that the action is produced by a particular microbe (due, perhaps, to the use of animal matter in feeding), the investigation of which, by separation and cultivation, might produce results of a beneficial nature.

Adoptive Acts.

Many public health advantages would follow the adoption of Part III of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, and the Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.

The former Act enables the Council adopting it to make Bye-Laws with regard to the proper provision of water for the flushing of water-closets, and also to limit to twelve months all licenses of Slaughter-Houses after the adoption of the Act.

By the latter Act power is given to deal summarily with infected milk, and also to proceed more effectually under the Health Act, 1875, in the prevention of infection.

Water Supply and

Mr. ODDY has furnished the following information:

“The supply of water during the last year was 1,000,000 gallons for domestic purposes. The only

“to its being adequate for both domestic and trade purposes was
“during portions of the months of July and August.”

“To obviate this periodical anxiety, the Council proposes to augment
“its present supply by laying on, early in the year 1903, the ‘Haydon
“Wood Supply,’ under powers given by the Yeovil Corporation Act, 1898.

“The Sewage Disposal Works are approaching completion.
“Considerable delay has been occasioned by the difficulty experienced
“in procuring suitable material for the formation of the Filter Beds. It
“is, however, confidently hoped that they will be completed and
“brought into full operation by the end of March, 1903.”

It is necessary that the Medical Officer of Health should be supplied
with chemical and bacteriological appliances for the purpose of
examining. from time to time, the water supply, with regard to its
purity, and the Sewage Disposal Works, with regard to their efficiency.

In conclusion, I must acknowledge the assistance of Mr. RING who
has given me essential help, both clerical and otherwise.

WM. McCALLIN, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.S.Sc.,

Barrister-at-Law.